

INSIDE WASHINGTON

Weekly Sizeup by Washington Staff
Of Scripps-Howard Newspapers

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8.—American Medical Assn. has started a campaign to convince people they should cut down on purchases of vitamins, laxatives and aspirin. It's also seeking to discourage public from "throwing money out the window" for what

it calls, "useless devices and gadgets being promoted as cure-alls for everything, "and products of "food faddists" peddled from door to door.

Average family pays out \$18 a month for non-prescription drugs, AMA says; gets little for its money.

In a year, Americans spend \$350 million for vitamins. AMA believes this "could better be spent on food," since an adequate diet contains all needed vitamins.

For laxatives, public spends \$148 million a year, and AMA says Americans have become "addicted to unnatural elimination aids."

Annual aspirin bills total \$88 million, "much of it unnecessary."

Economy drive is two-pronged. Besides educating general public, AMA is urging physicians to go easier on patients' pocketbooks.

It suggests less prescribing of high-priced drugs (especially tranquilizers and antibiotics) and smallest possible quantities; hospital admissions only when necessary; substitution of low-cost drugs for high-cost items when possible; fewer expensive diagnostic tests.

GOVERNMENT, TOO, has extraordinary vital interest in you.

One of its latest air raid manuals contains this item:

"All funeral coaches must pull to the curb and stop when the siren sounds, although the occupants are not required to seek shelter."

UNITED NATIONS FLASHES: General Assembly is so far behind schedule it will have to convene again after a Christmas recess, if all subjects on agenda

are to be covered. (It had planned to complete work by Dec. 17.) . . . Russians, wooing Afro-Asians in their campaign against Hammarskjold, are whispering that next secretary general will be an Asian; one after that an African . . . India's Premier Nehru went further than any other neutral in defending Dag Hammarskjold; gave him high marks as a man of integrity . . . Some African delegates complain that Americans at the U. N. are unfriendly. U. S. hasn't given a reception for other delegates, though most nations have. (We may give one after Khrushchev leaves the country.) Meanwhile, K and his gang turn up at all social affairs.

NOBODY'S SAYING much about it but . . .

There are some indications birth-control pill approved by the Food and Drug Administration inhibits certain types of cancer.

Puerto Rican women have been taking the oral contraceptive in a test conducted by Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology, Shrewsbury, Mass. Dr. Gregory Pincus, research director, says in four years not one case of breast cancer has occurred among the 800 women;

only one cancer of the cervix. Statistics indicate 20 cases would have occurred ordinarily.

GOVERNMENT ECONOMISTS now expect 50 per cent of new car sales to be compacts. (Early in the year they said 40 per cent.)

Change is linked to downturning business trends. One Commerce Department expert says, "If we have a recession—and personally I think we're in one (Col. 4)

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CPYRGHT

But Navy fliers have won their

Indications are Kennedy will get a 550,000 margin in Ohio's Cuyahoga County, which should give him the state . . . Talk about religion has died down in Midwest politics but politicians don't know whether this means it's died out as an issue. In Catholic centers like Gary and South Bend, Ind., anti-Catholic talk has backfired. But a Denver poll showed 10 per cent of those voting for Nixon had voted democratic four years ago, and all said religion was reason for their change . . . Top Republicans now list Indiana as "undecided," though they had counted it in the bag for Nixon.

In Michigan, Col. James Kellis, United States Air Force, Retired, is running for Congress on a platform of "Allen Dulles Must Go." Kellis is hero of the underground which liberated Greece in World War II; also, he operated in China behind Communist lines when he was on loan to CIA for 10 years, was acting chief of operations at one point. Now he says CIA has "gone soft" under Dulles. But he's running for Congress in a silk stocking district against Representative William S. Bloomfield, Republican, and odds are against him.

"We have lots of Cadillacs."